

A LIST OF THE FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS OF
THE CAPE PENINSULA, WITH NOTES ON SOME OF
THE CRITICAL SPECIES.

COMPILED BY
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PREFACE.

It is a somewhat remarkable circumstance that although a "Flora Capensis," embracing the whole Colony, so far as then known, was compiled by the celebrated botanist and traveller, Dr. C. P. Thunberg, about the beginning of the last century, and though a further and much more elaborate "Flora" of South Africa was commenced by Harvey and Sonder in 1859, and is now only approaching completion, yet no catalogue of the plants found upon the Cape Peninsula, the portion of the Colony earliest known and colonised, and that still containing the largest population, has ever been compiled or published.

The catalogue subjoined, which we have prepared from the records of many collections besides our own, must be regarded as a preliminary one, and only approximately complete or correct. Botanists, and especially those who have visited or resided at the Cape, will understand that errors of omission, probably still more of commission, must be frequent. The difficulties in the identification of many of the older or more obscure species are very great, and can only be overcome by time and successive workers. We have been careful, as a rule, to avoid including any plant of which the evidence of its having been collected on the Peninsula is not reasonably good, though a certain number have been mentioned, as explained below. But we have omitted some species, marked by the collectors merely "Cape Flats," unless we have other evidence of their occurrence within our limits, because the Cape Flats stretch for miles beyond our assumed boundary line of the Peninsula; while yet some of those so excluded may, and probably do, grow within the limits of our Flora, and may hereafter be added to it.

A brief explanation must be given of the system followed in our catalogue. The species, after the first in each genus, are numbered consecutively, excepting the excluded ones mentioned below. The sign † before a name indicates that the species, genus, or order so marked is believed to be not native within our limits. Species known to be planted, though a person unacquainted with the Flora might believe some of them to be native, are not included, *e.g.*, species of *Acacia*, *Alnus*, *Hakea*, *Pinus*, *Populus*, *Quercus*, &c. A ? after a

name indicates doubt as to the correctness of the name given, though the species quoted is believed to be distinct from any other in the catalogue. A ? before a name means that we are not satisfied that the species so marked has really ever been gathered within our limits, though we do not feel justified in rejecting it altogether; these are not numbered consecutively in their genera.

After each species we give the habitat, the relative frequency, and the months of flowering, followed, in the case of the less frequent ones, by the stations in which they have been gathered, the stations being separated by semicolons. The localities quoted are those in which one or other of us has seen the plant growing; those of other collectors we quote in inverted commas followed by the name of the collector, and usually by the collector's number, at least in the case of the rarer species.

We have found great difficulty in correctly quoting the months of flowering of many of the species. Not only do some vary greatly in different parts of our area, but their time of appearance depends much upon the season, and above all, on the effect of fires. Nor is it easy to define with any degree of accuracy the relative frequency of many of our species. This is liable to variation from the above-quoted causes; moreover, a considerable number have only hitherto been found in more or less restricted areas, so that perhaps a freer use of the expression "locally common" instead of "rare" or "occasional" should have been made, and there is much difference of opinion as to which are "frequent," "occasional," or "rare" species.

We cannot conclude these remarks without thanking those who have been of assistance to us in naming many critical plants. Firstly, we would express our indebtedness to Sir W. T. Thiselton-Dyer, K.C.M.G., Director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, who has kindly permitted the assistance of several members of the staff of the Kew Herbarium. Amongst these, Mr. N. E. Brown has been indefatigable in bringing his special knowledge of South African botany to bear on a very large number of our specimens. The majority of the Orders SCROPHULARIACEÆ, RESTIONACEÆ, CYPERACEÆ, GRAMINEÆ, and CHARACEÆ have been seen and named by Mr. W. P. Hiern, Dr. W. H. Masters, Mr. C. B. Clarke, Dr. O. Stapf, and Messrs. H. and J. Groves respectively, without whose kind help, willingly given, these critical genera would have been very inadequately set forth. Mr. R. A. Rolfe has also kindly examined most of our SELAGINACEÆ.

H. B.

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